SPACE BOY

by

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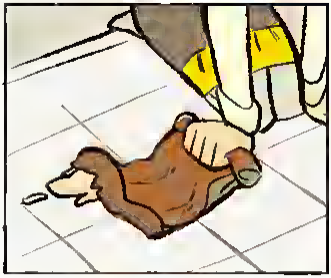
We found you an amazing private school... though you don't have to start right away if you don't want to.
The fall semester already began anyway, so we can easily wait until next semester.
No. I'd like to go.
Really?

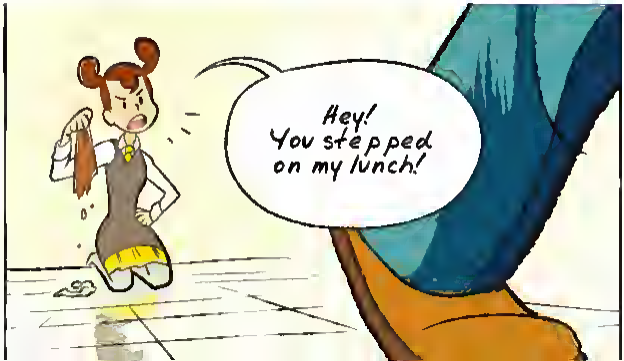
KOKOMO

We arrive at Kokomo City and dive into an ocean of people.

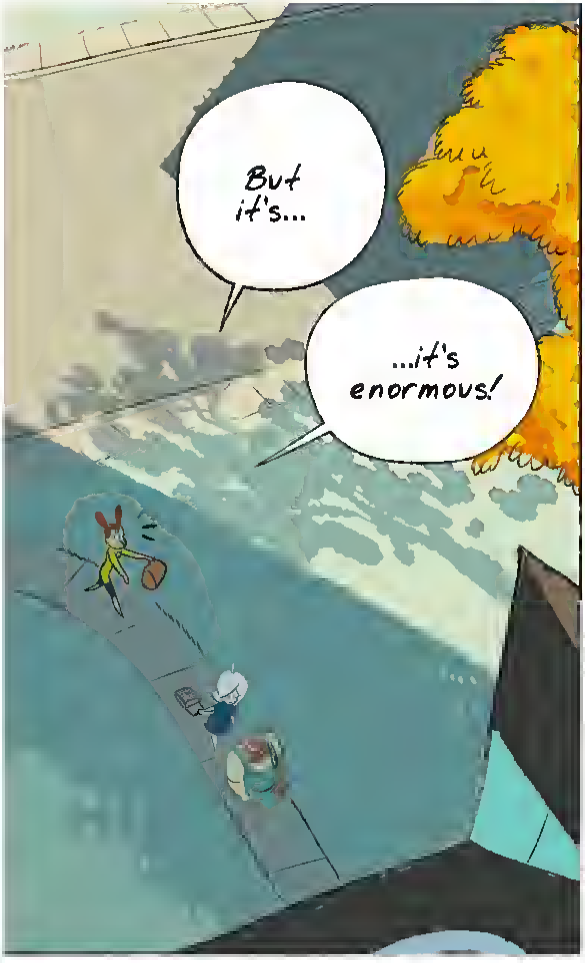
Dad plows through the crowd to make a path for us.

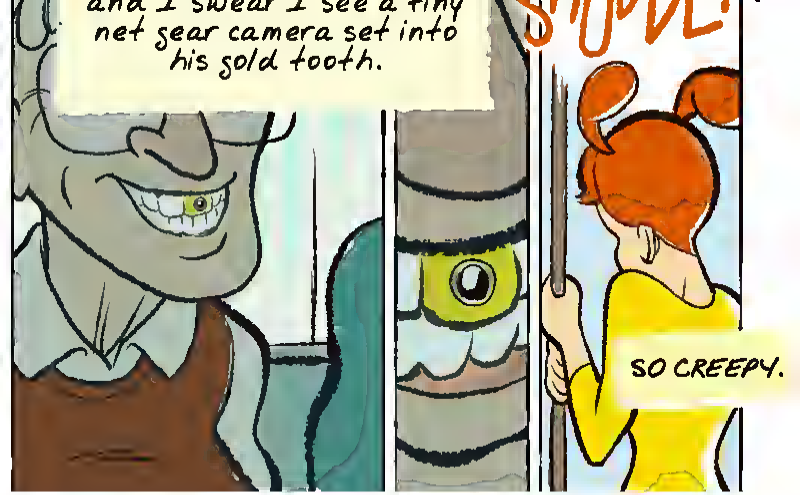
SQUISH

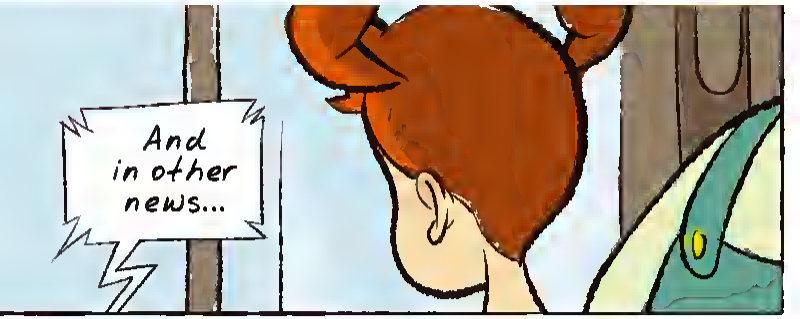



Hey!
You stepped on my lunch!

house?!
That's right.


But it's...
...it's enormous!


and I swear I see a tiny net gear camera set into his gold tooth.
SHUDDER!
SO CREEPY.


And in other news...

A private funeral was held today to mourn the passing of archeologist Aleksander Lesnik.

need to...

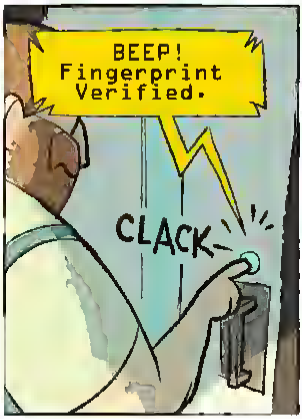
...stop and catch my...

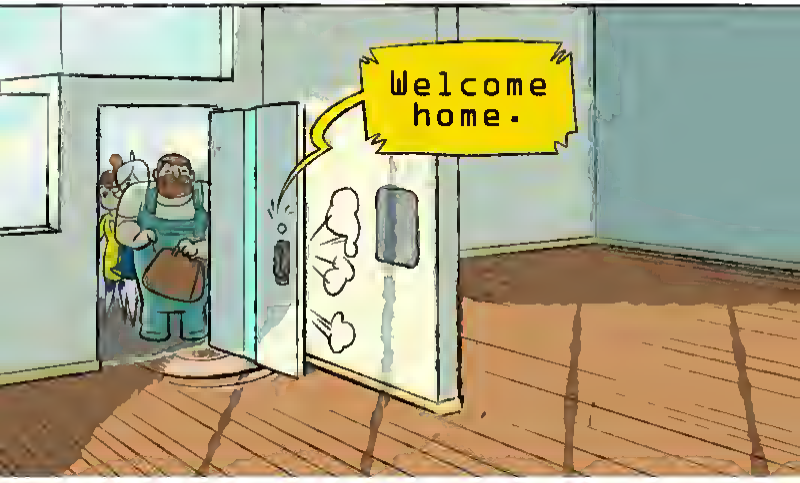
...breath.

huff

huff

Watch this.


BEEP! Fingerprint Verified.
CLACK-


Welcome home.

This kitchen is like, ten times bigger than what we had at the colony!
And this room has a skylight! Can this be my room?
Look! A balcony! You can see the harbor from here!

Oh, that reminds me! I bought you a pair of net gear glasses.
You did?
Why?
They were on your school supply list.
Wow.
I guess they use net gear for everything here.
You look disappointed.
I was hoping

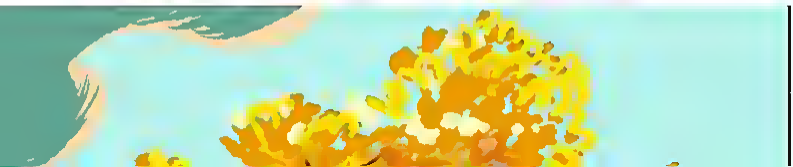
He wasn't talking about the tree, Amy.

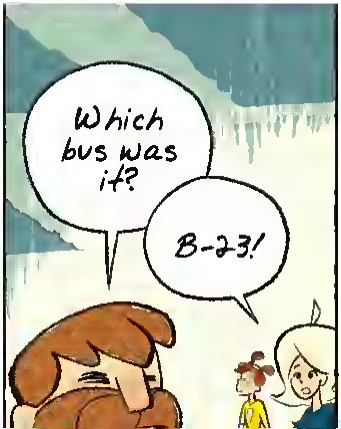
Wait...
THIS is our new

The FCP...

Where have I heard that before?

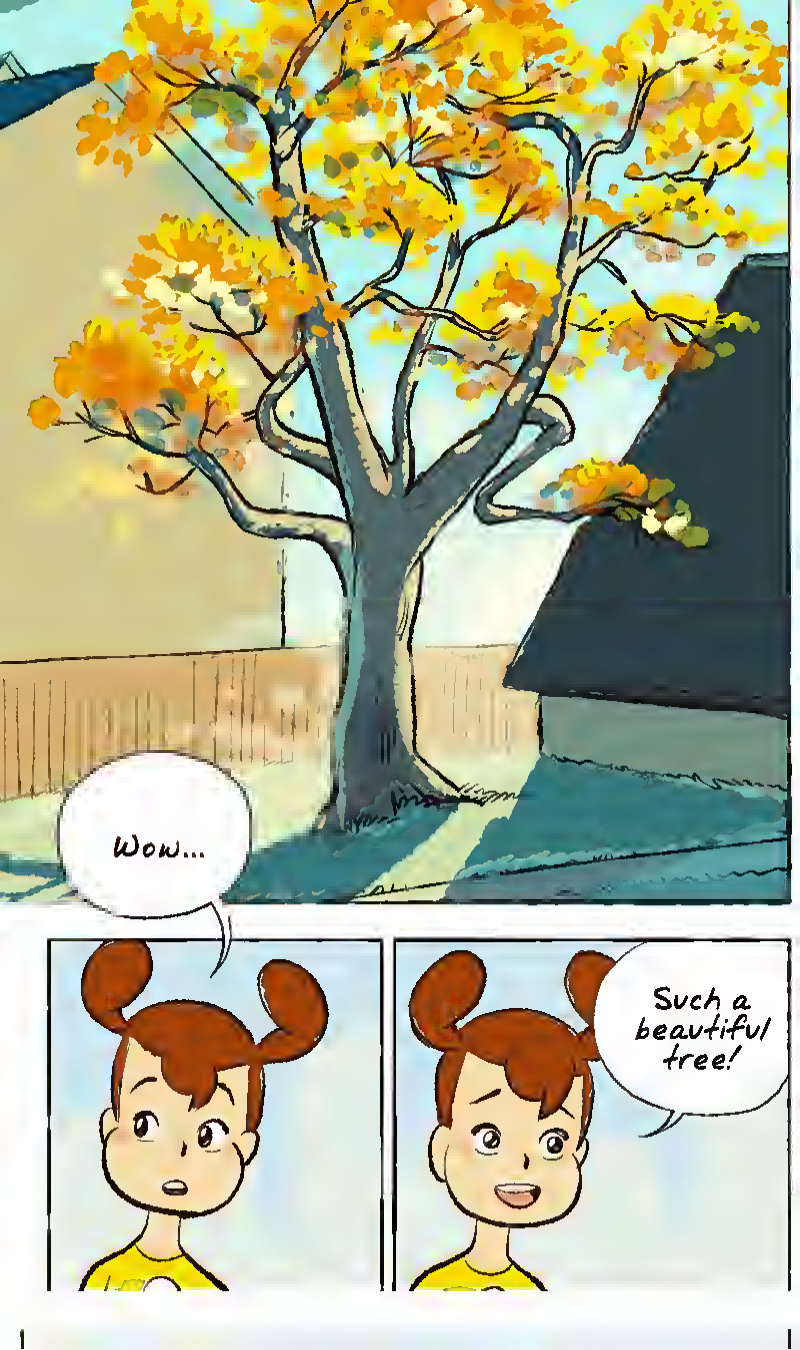
Well, what do you think, Sweet Pea?



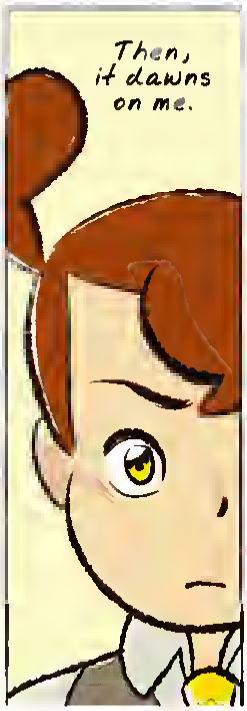


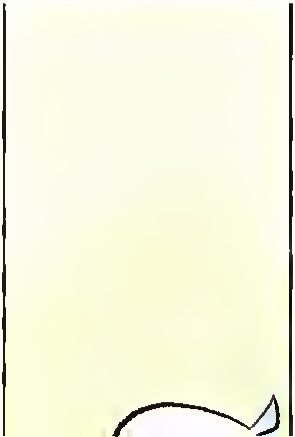
It feels like I'm looking

Dad, it's wonderful...
but...
...are you sure we can afford this?
Before we left the mining colony, I took all our money and invested it. After thirty years, we're actually doing pretty well.
What?! So are we, like, RICH now?
Well, I wouldn't say that. I still haven't been able to find a job. Seems all my mining knowledge is out of date at this point.
Wow...
What are you going to do?

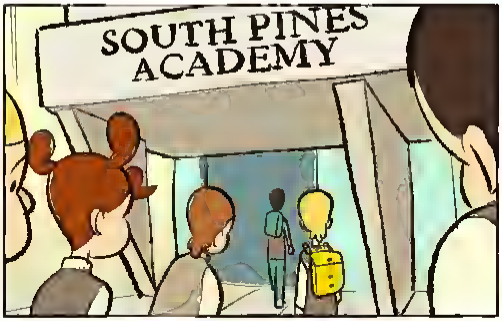

Wow...
Such a beautiful tree!

There is something off about him, but I can't figure out what.


Then, it dawns on me.

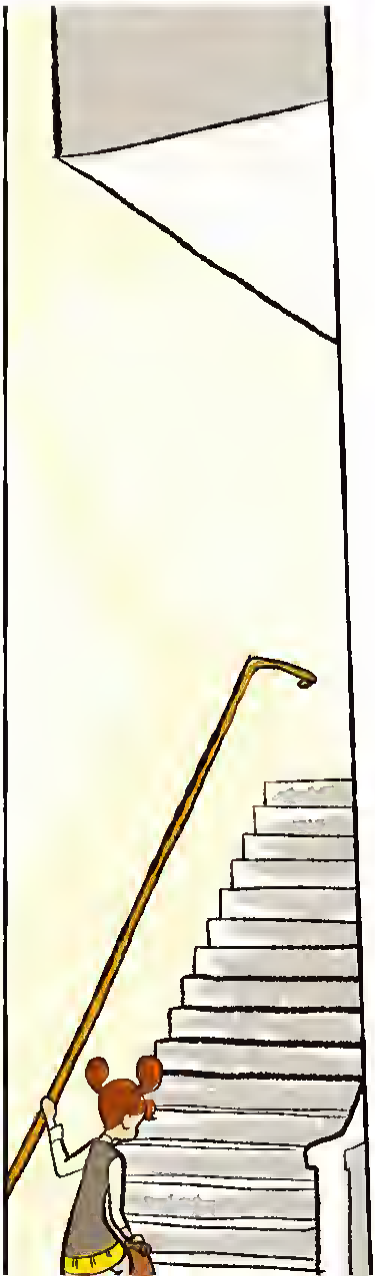


bell. Bye mom.
love you, sweetie.


SOUTH PINES ACADEMY

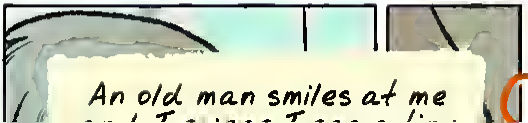
A-WING

He is the first person I have ever seen...



On the bus, everyone I see is plugged into the internet through some kind of net gear device.

People watch movies on net gear glasses and stream music through net gear earrings and talk into net gear bracelets.


An old man smiles at me

SHUDDER

I wouldn't have to use net gear, that's all.

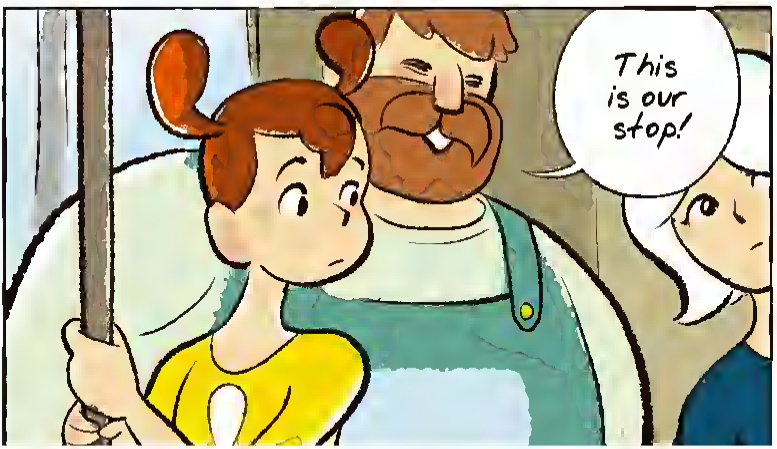
Oh, there's the hall! Bye

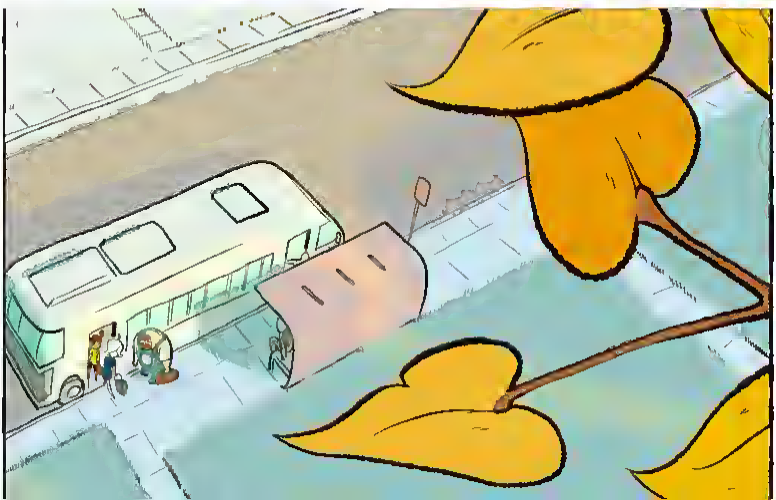
I

I made you a turkey sandwich with smoked gouda.
Thanks, Mom. You make the best lunches.
I also packed extra dessert to share with people. You might make some friends that way.
Thanks, Mom.
How are you feeling? Are you feeling okay?
I'm fine.
The school uniform is a bit uncomfortable but...

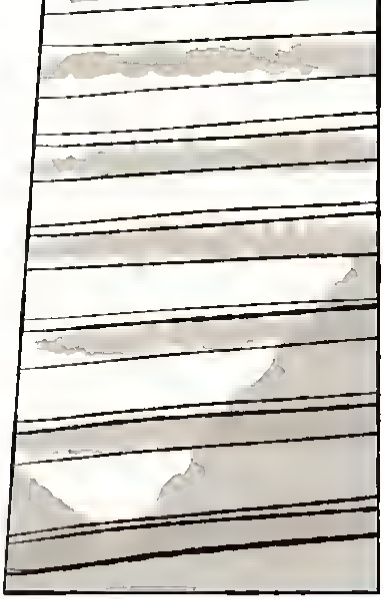
The plan right now is to go back to school and get my teaching certificate.
I'm thinking I'll teach geology.
At least the rocks here haven't changed much in thirty years.
heh heh
Kokomo has some of the best schools in the country-- that's why we came here, not just for your dad, but for you too, Amy.

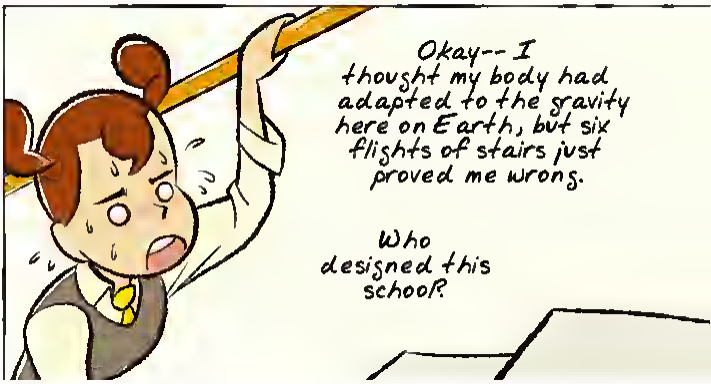
Lesnik was brutally murdered last month during his visit to the FCP Headquarters in Santanseles.


This is our stop!



...who
doesn't have
a flavor.



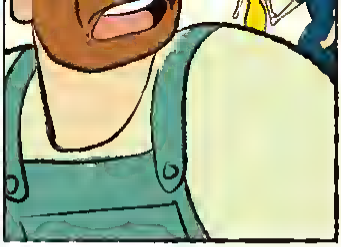

Okay-- I thought my body had adapted to the gravity here on Earth, but six flights of stairs just proved me wrong.
Who designed this school?

I can't show up to class like this...

I

Yeah.
I think I'm
ready.

His eyes are filled with an unnatural stillness.



at the world through a kaleidoscope, like everything familiar has been fractured to pieces and rearranged in a new way.

This is not the Earth I saw in the movies back when I was on the mining colony.
A lot has changed in thirty years.